facilities, medical facilities for ex-servicemen pensioners in Military hospital, etc. The objective is to enhance the facilities and concessions for resettlement and welfare of ex-servicemen and to make more effective use of the existing facilities.

Lowering of age-limit for the All India Services

1944. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age limit for the candidates appearing in the All India Services examinations was increased and then lowered again during the last few years;

(b) if so, what were the reasons thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in regard to the likely reduction in the number of candidates from the rural background which would naturally follow as a result of the recent reduction in the age-limit for these examinations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The upper age limit of candidates appearing in the I.A.S etc. examination was 24 years till 1971. It was raised to 26 in 1972 and to 28 years in 1979.

Government's objective is to recruit under strict competitive conditions, young men and women, fresh from graduation, and to train and mould them to suit the behavioural and skills requirements of the Civil Services. This objective had been eroded by the upper age limit of 28 years introduced in 1979. The upper age limit of 28 years had adversely affected the element of competitiveness of the examination in as much as a relatively young candidate of 21 years of age was pitted against a relatively old candidate of about 28 years, placing the former at a disadvantage and giving an unfair advantage to the latter. A wide age span of eligibility also enabled the older candidates to master the techniques of examination and inadvertantly placed a premium on study by rote as against the intrinsic intellectual qualities of critical analysis and power of assimilation and width and depth of knowledge of the candidate. It was also found difficult to mould the older candidates to the requirements of an organised Civil Service. Government also did not receive the benefit of a full term of service (assumed as 33 years) from the older candidates who entered service at a later stage. Taking into account these considerations and on the recommendations of the Union Public Service Commission and in consultation with State Governments, in so far as the All India Services are concerned, the Government of India decided in the year 1983 to reduce the upper age limit from 28 years to 26 years with effect from the Civil Services Examination, 1985. After giving a third and final chance to the candidates in 1986 Examination Government has implemented the decision from the Civil Services Examination, 1987.

Before taking the above decision to reduce the upper age limit, it was also examined whether it will adversely affect rural candidates. It was felt that people from rural areas with their meagre resources could ill-afford to educate their children indefinitely are let them wait for long to get passes for best employment in Government. Therefore, a higher upper age limit was likely to help the urban candidates rather than rural candidates. Normally, candidates for the Civil Services Examination including those from rural areas, would acquire the minimum educational qualification by the time they attain the age of about 21 years which leaves them about 4-5 years' time to appear for the examina-

tion even under the upper age limit of 26 years.

Area covered by Radio and TV networks

1945. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total area of the country is covered by Radio and T.V. networks at present; and

(b) by when the rest of the area is planned to be fully covered by those networks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Radio and TV coverage at present available and expected to be available after completion of the 7th Plan schemes of AIR/Doordarshan in the country is approximately as follows:—

	Present coverage (%)		Coverage after completion of 7th Plan scheme (%)	
	Population wise	Area wise	Population wise	Area wise
Radio	90.32	79.84	97.5	91
Door darshan	70 0	46.5	82.8	67.2

Further improvement in Radio/TV services to uncovered population/areas, would depend upon availability of resources in future developmental plans.

NRI projects

1946. SRHI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects of Non-resident Indians approved and being implemented in the country;

(b) the total volume of their investment; and

(c) the details of the new NRI projects approved and yet to be implemented in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.

Shifting of Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Administration

1947. SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to shift the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and the Institute of Secretariat Management and Training from Mussoorie to Ghaziabad; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?